

General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 7002

January Session, 2007

LCO No. 3612

*03612____GAE

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Introduced by: (GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING ETHICS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. Subsection (f) of section 1-79 of the general statutes is
- 2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from
- 3 passage):
- 4 (f) "Immediate family" means [any] spouse, children or dependent 5 relatives. [who reside in the individual's household.]
- 6 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 1-81 of the general statutes is
- 7 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from
- 8 passage):
- 9 (a) The board and general counsel and staff of the Office of State
- 10 Ethics shall:
- 11 (1) Compile and maintain an index of all reports, advisory opinions,
- 12 informal staff letters, memoranda issued in accordance with subsection
- 13 (b) of section 1-82, as amended by this act, and statements filed by and
- with the Office of State Ethics to facilitate public access to such reports

- and advisory opinions, informal staff letters, memoranda statements asprovided by this part;
- 17 (2) Preserve advisory opinions and informal staff letters, 18 permanently; preserve memoranda issued in accordance with 19 subsection (b) of section 1-82, as amended by this act, and statements 20 and reports filed by and with the board for a period of five years from 21 the date of receipt;
- 22 (3) Upon the concurring vote of a majority of the board present and 23 voting, issue advisory opinions with regard to the requirements of this 24 [part] <u>chapter</u>, upon the request of any person subject to the provisions 25 of this [part] chapter, and publish such advisory opinions in the 26 Connecticut Law Journal. Advisory opinions rendered by the board, 27 until amended or revoked, shall be binding on the board and shall be 28 deemed to be final decisions of the board for purposes of appeal to the 29 superior court, in accordance with the provisions of section 4-175 or 4-30 183. Any advisory opinion concerning the person who requested the 31 opinion and who acted in reliance thereon, in good faith, shall be 32 binding upon the board, and it shall be an absolute defense in any 33 criminal action brought under the provisions of this part, that the 34 accused acted in reliance upon such advisory opinion;
- 35 (4) Respond to inquiries and provide advice regarding the code of 36 ethics either verbally or through informal letters;
- 37 (5) Provide yearly training to all state employees regarding the code 38 of ethics;
- (6) Make legislative recommendations to the General Assembly and
 report annually, prior to April fifteenth, to the Governor summarizing
 the activities of the [commission] Office of State Ethics;
- 42 (7) Meet not less than once per month with the office's executive 43 director and ethics enforcement officer; and
- 44 (8) The [commission] Office of State Ethics may enter into such

contractual agreements as may be necessary for the discharge of its duties, within the limits of its appropriated funds and in accordance with established procedures.

- Sec. 3. Section 1-82 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
 - (a) (1) Upon [the complaint of any person on a form prescribed by the board, signed under penalty of false statement, or upon] its own complaint, the ethics enforcement officer of the Office of State Ethics shall investigate any alleged violation of this part or section 1-101nn. Not later than five days after the receipt or issuance of such complaint, the board shall provide notice of such receipt or issuance and a copy of the complaint by registered or certified mail to any respondent against whom such complaint is filed. [and shall provide notice of the receipt of such complaint to the complainant. When the ethics enforcement officer of the Office of State Ethics undertakes an evaluation of a possible violation of this part or section 1-101nn prior to the filing of a complaint, the subject of the evaluation shall be notified not later than five business days after an Office of State Ethics staff member's first contact with a third party concerning the matter.]
 - (2) In the conduct of its investigation of an alleged violation of this part or section 1-101nn, the Office of State Ethics shall have the power to hold hearings, administer oaths, examine witnesses, receive oral and documentary evidence, subpoena witnesses under procedural rules adopted by the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board as regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to compel attendance before the Office of State Ethics and to require the production for examination by the ethics enforcement officer of the Office of State Ethics deems relevant in any matter under investigation or in question. In the exercise of such powers, the Office of State Ethics may use the services of the state police, who shall provide the same upon the office's request. The Office of State Ethics shall make a record of all

proceedings conducted pursuant to this subsection. The ethics enforcement officer of the Office of State Ethics may bring any alleged violation of this part before a judge trial referee assigned by the Chief Court Administrator for such purpose for a probable cause hearing. Such judge trial referee shall be compensated in accordance with the provisions of section 52-434 from such funds as may be available to the Office of State Ethics. Any witness summoned before the Office of State Ethics or a judge trial referee pursuant to this subsection shall receive the witness fee paid to witnesses in the courts of this state. During any investigation conducted pursuant to this subsection or any probable cause hearing conducted pursuant to this subsection, the respondent shall have the right to appear and be heard and to offer any information which may tend to clear the respondent of probable cause to believe the respondent has violated any provision of this part or section 1-101nn. The respondent shall also have the right to be represented by legal counsel and to examine and cross-examine witnesses. Not later than ten days prior to the commencement of any hearing conducted pursuant to this subsection, the Office of State Ethics shall provide the respondent with a list of its intended witnesses. Any finding of probable cause to believe the respondent is in violation of any provisions of this part shall be made by a judge trial referee not later than thirty days after the ethics enforcement officer brings such alleged violation before such judge trial referee, except that such thirty-day limitation period shall not apply if the judge trial referee determines that good cause exists for extending such limitation period.

(b) If a judge trial referee determines that probable cause exists for the violation of a provision of this part or section 1-101nn, the board shall initiate hearings to determine whether there has been a violation of this part or section 1-101nn. Any such hearing shall be initiated by the board not later than thirty days after the finding of probable cause by a judge trial referee and shall be concluded not later than ninety days after its initiation, except that such thirty or ninety-day limitation period shall not apply if the judge trial referee determines that good

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cause exists for extending such limitation period. A judge trial referee, who has not taken part in the probable cause determination on the matter shall be assigned by the Chief Court Administrator and shall be compensated in accordance with section 52-434 out of funds available to the Office of State Ethics and shall preside over such hearing and rule on all issues concerning the application of the rules of evidence, which shall be the same as in judicial proceedings. The trial referee shall have no vote in any decision of the board. All hearings of the board held pursuant to this subsection shall be open. At such hearing the board shall have the same powers as the Office of State Ethics under subsection (a) of this section and the respondent shall have the right to be represented by legal counsel, the right to compel attendance of witnesses and the production of books, documents, records and papers and to examine and cross-examine witnesses. Not later than ten days prior to the commencement of any hearing conducted pursuant to this subsection, the Office of State Ethics shall provide the respondent with a list of its intended witnesses. The judge trial referee shall, while engaged in the discharge of the duties as provided in this subsection, have the same authority as is provided in section 51-35 over witnesses who refuse to obey a subpoena or to testify with respect to any matter upon which such witness may be lawfully interrogated, and may commit any such witness for contempt for a period no longer than thirty days. The Office of State Ethics shall make a record of all proceedings pursuant to this subsection. The board shall find no person in violation of any provision of this part or section 1-101nn except upon the concurring vote of [six] three of its members present and voting. Not later than fifteen days after the public hearing conducted in accordance with this subsection, the board shall publish its finding and a memorandum of the reasons therefor. Such finding and memorandum shall be deemed to be the final decision of the board on the matter for the purposes of chapter 54. The respondent, if aggrieved by the finding and memorandum, may appeal therefrom to the Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of section 4-183.

144 [(c) If a judge trial referee finds, after a hearing pursuant to this

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section, that there is no probable cause to believe that a public official or state employee has violated a provision of this part or section 1-101nn, or if the board determines that a public official or state employee has not violated any such provision, or if a court of competent jurisdiction overturns a finding by the board of a violation by such a respondent, the state shall pay the reasonable legal expenses of the respondent as determined by the Attorney General or by the court if appropriate. If any complaint brought under the provisions of this part or section 1-101nn is made with the knowledge that it is made without foundation in fact, the respondent shall have a cause of action against the complainant for double the amount of damage caused thereby and if the respondent prevails in such action, he may be awarded by the court the costs of such action together with reasonable attorneys' fees.]

[(d)] (c) No complaint may be made under this section later than five years after the violation alleged in the complaint has been committed.

[(e)] (d) No person shall take or threaten to take official action against an individual for such individual's disclosure of information to the board or the general counsel, ethics enforcement officer or staff of the Office of State Ethics under the provisions of this part or section 1-101nn. After receipt of information from an individual under the provisions of this part or section 1-101nn, the Office of State Ethics shall not disclose the identity of such individual without such individual's consent unless the Office of State Ethics determines that such disclosure is unavoidable during the course of an investigation. No person shall be subject to civil liability for any good faith disclosure that such person makes to the [commission] board, general counsel, ethics enforcement officer or staff of the Office of State Ethics under the provisions of this part or section 1-101nn.

Sec. 4. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 1-83 of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*

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(b) (1) The statement of financial interests, except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, shall include the following information for the preceding calendar year in regard to the individual required to file the statement and the individual's spouse and dependent children: [residing in the individual's household:] (A) The names of all businesses with which associated; (B) [the category or type of all sources of income, with a description of each source, in excess of one thousand dollars, without specifying amounts of income; (C) the name of securities in excess of five thousand dollars at fair market value owned by such individual, spouse or dependent children or held in the name of a corporation, partnership or trust for the benefit of such individual, spouse or dependent children; (D) the existence of any known blind trust and the names of the trustees; (E) all real property and its location, whether owned by such individual, spouse or dependent children or held in the name of a corporation, partnership or trust for the benefit of such individual, spouse or dependent children; (F) the names and addresses of creditors to whom the individual, the individual's spouse or dependent children, individually, owed debts of more than ten thousand dollars; (G) any leases or contracts with the state held or entered into by the individual or a business with which he or she was associated; and (H) a description of any partnership, joint ownership or similar business affiliation between (i) a business included under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision with which the individual filing the statement, the individual's spouse or a dependent child of the individual is associated, and (ii) a lobbyist, a person that the individual filing the statement knows or has reason to know is doing business with or seeking to do business with the state or is engaged in activities that are directly regulated by the department or agency in which the individual is employed, or a business with which such lobbyist or person is associated.

(2) The statement of financial interests filed by state marshals shall

include only amounts and sources of income earned in their capacity as state marshals.

- (c) The statement of financial interests filed pursuant to this section shall be a matter of public information. [, except the list of names, filed in accordance with subparagraph (F) of subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section shall be sealed and confidential and for the use of the Office of State Ethics only after a complaint has been filed under section 1-82 and such complaint has been determined by a vote of the board to be of sufficient merit and gravity to justify the unsealing of such list or lists and not open to public inspection unless the respondent requests otherwise. If the board reports its findings to the Chief State's Attorney in accordance with subsection (c) of section 1-88, the board shall turn over to the Chief State's Attorney such relevant information contained in the statement as may be germane to the specific violation or violations or a prosecutorial official may subpoena such statement in a criminal action. Unless otherwise a matter of public record, the Office of State Ethics shall not disclose to the public any such subpoena which would be exempt from disclosure by the issuing agency.]
- Sec. 5. Section 1-84 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- (a) No public official or state employee shall, while serving as such, have any financial interest in, or engage in, any business, employment, transaction or professional activity, which is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his duties or employment in the public interest and of his responsibilities as prescribed in the laws of this state, as defined in section 1-85, as amended by this act.
 - (b) No public official or state employee shall accept other employment which will either impair his independence of judgment as to his official duties or employment or require him, or induce him, to disclose confidential information acquired by him in the course of and by reason of his official duties.

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(c) No public official or state employee shall wilfully and knowingly disclose, for financial gain, to any other person, confidential information acquired by him in the course of and by reason of his official duties or employment and no public official or state employee shall use his public office or position or any confidential information received through his holding such public office or position to obtain financial gain for himself, his spouse, child, child's spouse, parent, brother or sister, or other employer or a business with which he is associated.

(d) No public official or state employee or employee of such public official or state employee shall agree to accept, or be a member or employee of a partnership, association, professional corporation or sole proprietorship which partnership, association, professional corporation or sole proprietorship agrees to accept any employment, fee or other thing of value, or portion thereof, for appearing, agreeing to appear, or taking any other action on behalf of another person before the Department of Banking, the Claims Commissioner, the Office of Health Care Access, the Insurance Department, the office within the Department of Consumer Protection that carries out the duties and responsibilities of sections 30-2 to 30-68m, inclusive, the Department of Motor Vehicles, the State Insurance and Risk Management Board, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Public Utility Control, the Connecticut Siting Council, the Division of Special Revenue within the Department of Revenue Services, the Gaming Policy Board within the Department of Revenue Services or the Connecticut Real Estate Commission; provided this shall not prohibit any such person from making inquiry for information on behalf of another before any of said commissions or commissioners if no fee or reward is given or promised in consequence thereof. For the purpose of this subsection, partnerships, associations, professional corporations or sole proprietorships refer only to such professional corporations partnerships, associations, proprietorships which have been formed to carry on the business or profession directly relating to the employment, appearing, agreeing to

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appear or taking of action provided for in this subsection. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit any employment, appearing, agreeing to appear or taking action before any municipal board, commission or council. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as applying (1) to the actions of any teaching or research professional employee of a public institution of higher education if such actions are not in violation of any other provision of this chapter, (2) to the actions of any other professional employee of a public institution of higher education if such actions are not compensated and are not in violation of any other provision of this chapter, (3) to any member of a board or commission who receives no compensation other than per diem payments or reimbursement for actual or necessary expenses, or both, incurred in the performance of the member's duties, or (4) to any member or director of a quasi-public agency. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection to the contrary, a legislator, an officer of the General Assembly or part-time legislative employee may be or become a member or employee of a firm, partnership, association or professional corporation which represents clients for compensation before agencies listed in this subsection, provided the legislator, officer of the General Assembly or part-time legislative employee shall take no part in any matter involving the agency listed in this subsection and shall not receive compensation from any such matter. Receipt of a previously established salary, not based on the current or anticipated business of the firm, partnership, association or professional corporation involving the agencies listed in this subsection, shall be permitted.

- (e) No legislative commissioner or his partners, employees or associates shall represent any person subject to the provisions of part II concerning the promotion of or opposition to legislation before the General Assembly, or accept any employment which includes an agreement or understanding to influence, or which is inconsistent with, the performance of his official duties.
- 308 (f) No person shall offer or give to a public official or state employee

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or candidate for public office or his spouse, his parent, brother, sister or child or spouse of such child or a business with which he is associated, anything of value, including but not limited to, a gift, loan, political contribution, reward or promise of future employment based on any understanding that the vote, official action or judgment of the public official, state employee or candidate for public office would be or had been influenced thereby.

- (g) No public official or state employee or candidate for public office shall solicit or accept anything of value, including but not limited to, a gift, loan, political contribution, reward or promise of future employment based on any understanding that the vote, official action or judgment of the public official or state employee or candidate for public office would be or had been influenced thereby.
- (h) Nothing in subsection (f) or (g) of this section shall be construed (1) to apply to any promise made in violation of subdivision (6) of section 9-622, or (2) to permit any activity otherwise prohibited in section 53a-147 or 53a-148.
 - (i) No public official or state employee or member of the official or employee's immediate family or a business with which he is associated shall enter into any contract with the state, valued at one hundred dollars or more, other than a contract of employment as a state employee or pursuant to a court appointment, unless the contract has been awarded through an open and public process, including prior public offer and subsequent public disclosure of all proposals considered and the contract awarded. In no event shall an executive head of an agency, as defined in section 4-166, including a commissioner of a department, or an executive head of a quasi-public agency, as defined in section 1-79, as amended by this act, or the executive head's immediate family or a business with which he is associated enter into any contract with that agency or quasi-public agency. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as applying to any public official who is appointed as a member of the executive

341 branch or as a member or director of a quasi-public agency and who 342 receives no compensation other than per diem payments or 343 reimbursement for actual or necessary expenses, or both, incurred in 344 the performance of the public official's duties unless such public official has authority or control over the subject matter of the contract. 345 346 Any contract made in violation of this subsection shall be voidable by 347 a court of competent jurisdiction if the suit is commenced not later 348 than one hundred eighty days after the making of the contract.

- (j) No public official, state employee or candidate for public office, or a member of any such person's staff or immediate family shall knowingly accept any gift, as defined in subsection (e) of section 1-79, from a person known to be a registrant or anyone known to be acting on behalf of a registrant.
- (k) No public official, spouse of the Governor or state employee shall accept a fee or honorarium for an article, appearance or speech, or for participation at an event, in the public official's, spouse's or state employee's official capacity, provided a public official, Governor's spouse or state employee may receive payment or reimbursement for necessary expenses for any such activity in his or her official capacity. If a public official, Governor's spouse or state employee receives such a payment or reimbursement for lodging or out-of-state travel, or both, the public official, Governor's spouse or state employee shall, not later than thirty days thereafter, file a report of the payment or reimbursement with the Office of State Ethics, unless the payment or reimbursement is provided by the federal government or another state government. If a public official, Governor's spouse or state employee does not file such report within such period, either intentionally or due to gross negligence on the public official's, Governor's spouse's or state employee's part, the public official, Governor's spouse or state employee shall return the payment or reimbursement. If any failure to file such report is not intentional or due to gross negligence on the part of the public official, Governor's spouse or state employee, the public official, Governor's spouse or state employee shall not be subject to any

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penalty under this chapter. When a public official, Governor's spouse or state employee attends an event in this state in the public official's, Governor's spouse's or state employee's official capacity and as a principal speaker at such event and receives admission to or food or beverage at such event from the sponsor of the event, such admission or food or beverage shall not be considered a gift and no report shall be required from such public official, spouse or state employee or from the sponsor of the event.

- (l) No public official or state employee, or any person acting on behalf of a public official or state employee, shall wilfully and knowingly interfere with, influence, direct or solicit existing or new lobbying contracts, agreements or business relationships for or on behalf of any person.
- (m) No public official or state employee shall knowingly accept, directly or indirectly, any gift, as defined in subsection (e) of section 1-79, from any person the public official or state employee knows or has reason to know: (1) Is doing business with or seeking to do business with the department or agency in which the public official or state employee is employed; (2) is engaged in activities which are directly regulated by such department or agency; or (3) is prequalified under section 4a-100. No person shall knowingly give, directly or indirectly, any gift or gifts in violation of this provision. For the purposes of this subsection, the exclusion to the term "gift" in subdivision (12) of subsection (e) of section 1-79 for a gift for the celebration of a major life event shall not apply. Any person prohibited from making a gift under this subsection shall report to the Office of State Ethics any solicitation of a gift from such person by a state employee or public official.
- (n) (1) As used in this subsection, (A) "investment services" means investment legal services, investment banking services, investment advisory services, underwriting services, financial advisory services or brokerage firm services, and (B) "principal of an investment services firm" means (i) an individual who is a director of or has an ownership

interest in an investment services firm, except for an individual who owns less than five per cent of the shares of an investment services firm which is a publicly traded corporation, (ii) an individual who is employed by an investment services firm as president, treasurer, or executive or senior vice president, (iii) an employee of such an investment services firm who has managerial or discretionary responsibilities with respect to any investment services, (iv) the spouse or dependent child of an individual described in this subparagraph, or (v) a political committee established by or on behalf of an individual described in this subparagraph.

- (2) The State Treasurer shall not pay any compensation, expenses or fees or issue any contract to any firm which provides investment services when (A) a political committee, as defined in section 9-601, established by such firm, or (B) a principal of the investment services firm has made a contribution, as defined in section 9-601a, to, or solicited contributions on behalf of, any exploratory committee or candidate committee, as defined in section 9-601, established by the State Treasurer as a candidate for nomination or election to the office of State Treasurer. The State Treasurer shall not pay any compensation, expenses or fees or issue any contract to such firms or principals during the term of office as State Treasurer, including, for an incumbent State Treasurer seeking reelection, any remainder of the current term of office.
- (o) If (1) any person (A) is doing business with or seeking to do business with the department or agency in which a public official or state employee is employed, or (B) is engaged in activities which are directly regulated by such department or agency, and (2) such person or a representative of such person gives to such public official or state employee anything of value which is subject to the reporting requirements pursuant to subsection (e) of section 1-96, such person or representative shall, not later than ten days thereafter, give such recipient and the executive head of the recipient's department or agency a written report stating the name of the donor, a description of

- the item or items given, the value of such items and the cumulative
- value of all items given to such recipient during that calendar year.
- 441 The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to a political
- contribution otherwise reported as required by law.
- (p) (1) No public official or state employee or member of the immediate family of a public official or state employee shall knowingly accept, directly or indirectly, any gift costing one hundred dollars or more from a public official or state employee who is under the supervision of such public official or state employee.
- 448 (2) No public official or state employee or member of the immediate 449 family of a public official or state employee shall knowingly accept, 450 directly or indirectly, any gift costing one hundred dollars or more 451 from a public official or state employee who is a supervisor of such 452 public official or state employee.
- 453 (3) No public official or state employee shall knowingly give, 454 directly or indirectly, any gift in violation of subdivision (1) or (2) of 455 this subsection.
 - (q) No public official or state employee shall knowingly accept, directly or indirectly, any goods or services provided to the state under subdivision (5) of subsection (e) of section 1-79 by a person prohibited from making gifts to public officials and state employees under this section or section 1-97.
 - (r) No legislator or member of such legislator's staff may accept, directly or indirectly, any goods or services provided to the state under subdivision (5) of subsection (e) of section 1-79 by a person known to be a registrant or anyone known to be acting on behalf of a registrant.
- [(r)] (s) No public official or state employee shall counsel, authorize or otherwise sanction action that violates any provision of this part.
- Sec. 6. Subsection (f) of section 1-84b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*

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(f) No former public official or state employee (1) who participated substantially in the negotiation or award of (A) a state contract valued at an amount of fifty thousand dollars or more, or (B) a written agreement for the approval of a payroll deduction slot described in section 3-123g, or (2) who supervised the negotiation or award of such a contract or agreement, shall accept employment with a party to the contract or agreement other than the state for a period of [one year] two years after his resignation from his state office or position if his resignation occurs less than one year after the contract or agreement is signed.

Sec. 7. Section 1-85 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

A public official, including an elected state official, or state employee has an interest which is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his duties or employment in the public interest and of his responsibilities as prescribed in the laws of this state, if he has reason to believe or expect that he, his spouse, a dependent child, his or her other employer or a business with which he is associated will derive a direct monetary gain or suffer a direct monetary loss, as the case may be, by reason of his official activity. A public official, including an elected state official, or state employee does not have an interest which is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his duties in the public interest and of his responsibilities as prescribed by the laws of this state, if any benefit or detriment accrues to him, his spouse, a dependent child, his or her other employer or a business with which he, his spouse or such dependent child is associated as a member of a profession, occupation or group to no greater extent than any other member of such profession, occupation or group. A public official, including an elected state official or state employee who has a substantial conflict may not take official action on the matter.

Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 1-86 of the general statutes is

repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Any public official or state employee, other than an elected state official, who, in the discharge of such official's or employee's official duties, would be required to take an action that would affect a financial interest of such official or employee, such official's or employee's spouse, parent, brother, sister, child or the spouse of a child, other employer or a business with which such official or employee is associated, other than an interest of a de minimis nature, an interest that is not distinct from that of a substantial segment of the general public or an interest in substantial conflict with the performance of official duties, as defined in section 1-85, as amended by this act, has a potential conflict of interest. Under such circumstances, such official or employee shall, if such official or employee is a member of a state regulatory agency, either excuse himself or herself from the matter or prepare a written statement signed under penalty of false statement describing the matter requiring action and the nature of the potential conflict and explaining why despite the potential conflict, such official or employee is able to vote and otherwise participate fairly, objectively and in the public interest. Such public official or state employee shall deliver a copy of the statement to the Office of State Ethics and enter a copy of the statement in the journal or minutes of the agency. If such official or employee is not a member of a state regulatory agency, such official or employee shall, in the case of either a substantial or potential conflict, prepare a written statement signed under penalty of false statement describing the matter requiring action and the nature of the conflict and deliver a copy of the statement to such official's or employee's immediate superior, if any, who shall assign the matter to another employee, or if such official or employee has no immediate superior, such official or employee shall take such steps as the Office of State Ethics shall prescribe or advise.

Sec. 9. Section 1-91 of the general statutes is repealed and the

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- following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- When used in this part, unless the context otherwise requires:
- 536 (a) "Administrative action" means any action or nonaction of any 537 executive agency of the state with respect to the proposal, drafting, 538 development, consideration, amendment, adoption or repeal of any 539 rule, regulation or utility rate, and any action or nonaction of any 540 executive agency or quasi-public agency, as defined in section 1-79, as 541 amended by this act, regarding a contract, grant, award, purchasing 542 agreement, loan, bond, certificate, license, permit or any other matter 543 which is within the official jurisdiction or cognizance of such an 544 agency.
- (b) "Candidate for public office" means any person who has filed a declaration of candidacy or a petition to appear on the ballot for election as a public official, or who has raised or expended money in furtherance of such candidacy, or who has been nominated for appointment to serve as a public official; but shall not include a candidate for the office of senator or representative in Congress.
- (c) "Board" means the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board established under section 1-80.
- 553 (d) "Compensation" means any value received or to be received by a 554 person acting as a lobbyist, whether in the form of a fee, salary or 555 forbearance.
- (e) "Executive agency" means a commission, board, agency, or other body or official in the executive branch of the state government and any independent body of the state government that is not a part of the legislative or judicial branch.
- (f) "Expenditure" means any advance, conveyance, deposit, distribution, transfer of funds, loan, payment, unless expressly excluded; any payments for telephone, mailing, postage, printing and other clerical or office services and materials; any paid

communications, costing fifty dollars or more in any calendar year, disseminated by means of any printing, broadcasting or other medium, provided such communications refer pending administrative or legislative action; any contract, agreement, promise or other obligation; any solicitation or solicitations, costing fifty dollars or more in the aggregate for any calendar year, of other persons to communicate with a public official or state employee for the purpose of influencing any legislative or administrative act and any pledge, subscription of money or anything of value. "Expenditure" shall not include the payment of a registrant's fee pursuant to section 1-95, any expenditure made by any club, committee, partnership, organization, business, union, association or corporation for the purpose of publishing a newsletter or other release to its members, shareholders or employees, or contributions, membership dues or other fees paid to associations, nonstock corporations or tax-exempt organizations under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended.

- (g) "Gift" means anything of value, which is directly and personally received, unless consideration of equal or greater value is given in return. "Gift" shall not include:
- 585 (1) A political contribution otherwise reported as required by law or 586 a donation or payment described in subdivision (9) or (10) of 587 subsection (b) of section 9-601a;
- 588 (2) Services provided by persons volunteering their time, if 589 provided to aid or promote the success or defeat of any political party, 590 any candidate or candidates for public office or the position of 591 convention delegate or town committee member or any referendum 592 question;
- 593 (3) A commercially reasonable loan made on terms not more 594 favorable than loans made in the ordinary course of business;

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- 595 (4) A gift received from (A) the individual's spouse, fiance or 596 fiancee, (B) the parent, brother or sister of such spouse or such 597 individual, or (C) the child of such individual or the spouse of such 598 child;
- (5) Goods or services (A) which are provided to the state (i) for use on state property, or (ii) to support an event or the participation by a public official or state employee at an event, and (B) which facilitate state action or functions. As used in this subdivision, "state property" means (i) property owned by the state, or (ii) property leased to an agency in the Executive or Judicial Department of the state;
 - (6) A certificate, plaque or other ceremonial award costing less than one hundred dollars;
- 607 (7) A rebate, discount or promotional item available to the general 608 public;
- 609 (8) Printed or recorded informational material germane to state 610 action or functions;
 - (9) Food or beverage or both, costing less than fifty dollars in the aggregate per recipient in a calendar year, and consumed on an occasion or occasions at which the person paying, directly or indirectly, for the food or beverage, or his representative, is in attendance;
- 616 (10) Food or beverage or both, costing less than fifty dollars per 617 person and consumed at a publicly noticed legislative reception to 618 which all members of the General Assembly are invited and which is 619 hosted not more than once in any calendar year by a lobbyist or 620 business organization. For the purposes of such limit, (A) a reception 621 hosted by a lobbyist who is an individual shall be deemed to have also 622 been hosted by the business organization which he owns or is 623 employed by, and (B) a reception hosted by a business organization 624 shall be deemed to have also been hosted by all owners and employees

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of the business organization who are lobbyists. In making the calculation for the purposes of such fifty-dollar limit, the donor shall divide the amount spent on food and beverage by the number of persons whom the donor reasonably expects to attend the reception;

- (11) Food or beverage or both, costing less than fifty dollars per person and consumed at a publicly noticed reception to which all members of the General Assembly from a region of the state are invited and which is hosted not more than once in any calendar year by a lobbyist or business organization. For the purposes of such limit, (A) a reception hosted by a lobbyist who is an individual shall be deemed to have also been hosted by the business organization which he owns or is employed by, and (B) a reception hosted by a business organization shall be deemed to have also been hosted by all owners and employees of the business organization who are lobbyists. In making the calculation for the purposes of such fifty-dollar limit, the donor shall divide the amount spent on food and beverage by the number of persons whom the donor reasonably expects to attend the reception. As used in this subdivision, "region of the state" means the established geographic service area of the organization hosting the reception;
- (12) A gift, including, but not limited to, food or beverage or both, provided by an individual for the celebration of a major life event;
 - (13) Gifts costing less than one hundred dollars in the aggregate or food or beverage provided at a hospitality suite at a meeting or conference of an interstate legislative association, by a person who is not a registrant or is not doing business with the state of Connecticut;
 - (14) Admission to a charitable or civic event, including food and beverage provided at such event, but excluding lodging or travel expenses, at which a public official or state employee participates in his official capacity, provided such admission is provided by the primary sponsoring entity;

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- 656 (15) Anything of value provided by an employer of (A) a public 657 official, (B) a state employee, or (C) a spouse of a public official or state 658 employee, to such official, employee or spouse, provided such benefits 659 are customarily and ordinarily provided to others in similar 660 circumstances; or
 - (16) Anything having a value of not more than ten dollars, provided the aggregate value of all things provided by a donor to a recipient under this subdivision in any calendar year shall not exceed fifty dollars.
 - (h) "Immediate family" means [any] spouse, [dependent] children or dependent relatives. [who reside in the individual's household.]
- (i) "Individual" means a natural person.
 - (j) "Legislative action" means introduction, sponsorship, consideration, debate, amendment, passage, defeat, approval, veto, overriding of a veto or any other official action or nonaction with regard to any bill, resolution, amendment, nomination, appointment, report, or any other matter pending or proposed in a committee or in either house of the legislature, or any matter which is within the official jurisdiction or cognizance of the legislature.
 - (k) "Lobbying" means communicating directly or soliciting others to communicate with any official or his staff in the legislative or executive branch of government or in a quasi-public agency, for the purpose of influencing any legislative or administrative action except that the term "lobbying" does not include (1) communications by or on behalf of a party to, or an intervenor in, a contested case, as described in regulations adopted by the commission in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, before an executive agency or a quasi-public agency, as defined in section 1-79, as amended by this act, (2) communications by a representative of a vendor or by an employee of the registered client lobbyist which representative or employee acts as a salesperson and does not otherwise engage in lobbying regarding

- 687 any administrative action, (3) communications by an attorney made 688 while engaging in the practice of law and regarding any matter other 689 than legislative action as defined in subsection (j) of this section or the 690 proposal, drafting, development, consideration, amendment, adoption 691 or repeal of any rule or regulation, or (4) other communications 692 exempted by regulations adopted by the [commission] Office of State 693 Ethics in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.
- 694 (l) "Lobbyist" means a person who in lobbying and in furtherance of 695 lobbying makes or agrees to make expenditures, or receives or agrees 696 to receive compensation, reimbursement, or both, and such 697 compensation, reimbursement or expenditures are two thousand 698 dollars or more in any calendar year or the combined amount thereof 699 is two thousand dollars or more in any such calendar year. Lobbyist 700 shall not include:
- 701 (1) A public official, employee of a branch of state government or a 702 subdivision thereof, or elected or appointed official of a municipality 703 or his designee other than an independent contractor, who is acting 704 within the scope of his authority or employment;
 - (2) A publisher, owner or an employee of the press, radio or television while disseminating news or editorial comment to the general public in the ordinary course of business;
- 708 (3) An individual representing himself or another person before the 709 legislature or a state agency other than for the purpose of influencing 710 legislative or administrative action;
- (4) Any individual or employee who receives no compensation or 712 reimbursement specifically for lobbying and who limits his activities 713 solely to formal appearances to give testimony before public sessions 714 of committees of the General Assembly or public hearings of state 715 agencies and who, if he testifies, registers his appearance in the records 716 of such committees or agencies;

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- 717 (5) A member of an advisory board acting within the scope of his 718 appointment;
- 719 (6) A senator or representative in Congress acting within the scope 720 of his office;
- 721 (7) Any person who receives no compensation or reimbursement 722 specifically for lobbying and who spends no more than five hours in 723 furtherance of lobbying unless such person (A) exclusive of salary, 724 receives compensation or makes expenditures, or both, of two 725 thousand dollars or more in any calendar year for lobbying or the 726 combined amount thereof is two thousand dollars or more in any such 727 calendar year, or (B) expends fifty dollars or more for the benefit of a 728 public official in the legislative or executive branch, a member of his 729 staff or immediate family;
- 730 (8) A communicator lobbyist who receives or agrees to receive compensation, reimbursement, or both, the aggregate amount of which 732 is less than two thousand dollars from each client in any calendar year.
 - (m) "Member of an advisory board" means any person appointed by a public official as an advisor or consultant or member of a committee, commission or council established to advise, recommend or consult with a public official or branch of government or committee thereof and who receives no public funds other than per diem payments or reimbursement for his actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of his official duties and who has no authority to expend any public funds or to exercise the power of the state.
- 741 (n) "Person" means an individual, a business, corporation, limited 742 liability company, union, association, firm, partnership, committee, 743 club or other organization or group of persons.
- 744 (o) "Political contribution" has the same meaning as in section 9-601a 745 except that for purposes of this part, the provisions of subsection (b) of 746 that section shall not apply.

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- 747 (p) "Public official" means any state-wide elected state officer, any 748 member or member-elect of the General Assembly, any person 749 appointed to any office of the legislative, judicial or executive branch 750 of state government by the Governor, with or without the advice and 751 consent of the General Assembly and any person appointed or elected 752 by the General Assembly or any member of either house thereof; but 753 shall not include a member of an advisory board or a senator or 754 representative in Congress.
- 755 (q) "Registrant" means a person who is required to register pursuant 756 to section 1-94.
- 757 (r) "Reimbursement" means any money or thing of value received or 758 to be received in the form of payment for expenses as a lobbyist, not 759 including compensation.
 - (s) "State employee" means any employee in the executive, judicial or legislative branch of state government, whether in the classified or unclassified service and whether full or part-time.
- 763 (t) "Business organization" means a sole proprietorship, corporation, 764 limited liability company, association, firm or partnership, other than a 765 client lobbyist, which is owned by, or employs one or more individual 766 lobbyists.
- 767 (u) "Client lobbyist" means a lobbyist on behalf of whom lobbying 768 takes place and who makes expenditures for lobbying and in 769 furtherance of lobbying.
- 770 (v) "Communicator lobbyist" means a lobbyist who communicates 771 directly or solicits others to communicate with an official or his staff in 772 the legislative or executive branch of government or in a quasi-public 773 agency for the purpose of influencing legislative or administrative 774 action.
- 775 Sec. 10. Subsection (e) of section 1-92 of the general statutes is 776 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from

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777 passage):

- 778 (e) Upon the concurring vote of a majority of its members present 779 and voting, the board shall issue advisory opinions with regard to the 780 requirements of this [part] chapter, upon the request of any person, 781 subject to the provisions of this part, and publish such advisory 782 opinions in the Connecticut Law Journal. Advisory opinions rendered 783 by the board, until amended or revoked, shall be binding on the board 784 and shall be deemed to be final decisions of the board for purposes of 785 appeal to the superior court, in accordance with the provisions of section 4-175 or 4-183. Any advisory opinion concerning any person 786 787 subject to the provisions of this part who requested the opinion and 788 who acted in reliance thereon, in good faith, shall be binding upon the 789 board, and it shall be an absolute defense in any criminal action 790 brought under the provisions of this part that the accused acted in 791 reliance upon such advisory opinion.
- Sec. 11. Section 1-93 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
 - (a) (1) Upon [the complaint of any person on a form prescribed by the Office of State Ethics, signed under penalty of false statement, or upon] its own complaint, the ethics enforcement officer of the Office of State Ethics shall investigate any alleged violation of this part. Not later than five days after the receipt or issuance of such complaint, the Office of State Ethics shall provide notice of such receipt or issuance and a copy of the complaint by registered or certified mail to any respondent against whom such complaint is filed. [and shall provide notice of the receipt of such complaint to the complainant. When the Office of State Ethics undertakes an evaluation of a possible violation of this part prior to the filing of a complaint, the subject of the evaluation shall be notified not later than five business days after a staff member of the Office of State Ethics undertakes the first contact with a third party concerning the matter.]
- 808 (2) In the conduct of its investigation of an alleged violation of this

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part, the Office of State Ethics shall have the power to hold hearings, administer oaths, examine witnesses, receive oral and documentary evidence, subpoena witnesses under procedural rules adopted by the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board as regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to compel attendance before the Office of State Ethics and to require the production for examination by the ethics enforcement officer of the Office of State Ethics of any books and papers which the ethics enforcement officer of the Office of State Ethics deems relevant in any matter under investigation or in question. In the exercise of such powers, the Office of State Ethics may use the services of the state police, who shall provide the same upon the office's request. The Office of State Ethics shall make a record of all proceedings conducted pursuant to this subsection. Any witness summoned before the Office of State Ethics or a judge trial referee pursuant to this subsection shall receive the witness fee paid to witnesses in the courts of this state. The ethics enforcement officer of the Office of State Ethics may bring any alleged violation of this part before a judge trial referee assigned by the Chief Court Administrator for such purpose for a probable cause hearing. Such judge trial referee shall be compensated in accordance with the provisions of section 52-434 from such funds as may be available to the Office of State Ethics. The respondent shall have the right to appear at any hearing held pursuant to this subsection and be heard and to offer any information which may tend to clear the respondent of probable cause to believe the respondent has violated any provision of this part. The respondent shall also have the right to be represented by legal counsel and to examine and cross-examine witnesses. Not later than ten days prior to the commencement of any hearing conducted pursuant to this subsection, the Office of State Ethics shall provide the respondent with a list of its intended witnesses. Any finding of probable cause to believe the respondent is in violation of any provision of this part shall be made by a judge trial referee not later than thirty days after the ethics enforcement officer brings such alleged violation before such judge trail referee, except that such thirty-day limitation period shall

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not apply if the judge trial referee determines that good cause exists for extending such limitation period.

(b) If a judge trial referee indicates that probable cause exists for the violation of a provision of this part, the board shall initiate hearings to determine whether there has been a violation of this part. Any such hearing shall be initiated by the board not later than thirty days after the finding of probable cause by a judge trial referee and shall be concluded not later than ninety days after its initiation, except that such thirty-day or ninety-day limitation period shall not apply if the judge trial referee determines that good cause exists for extending such limitation period. A judge trial referee, who has not taken part in the probable cause determination on the matter shall be assigned by the Chief Court Administrator and shall be compensated in accordance with section 52-434 out of funds available to the board and shall preside over such hearing and rule on all issues concerning the application of the rules of evidence, which shall be the same as in judicial proceedings. The trial referee shall have no vote in any decision of the board. All hearings of the board held pursuant to this subsection shall be open. At such hearing the board shall have the same powers as the Office of State Ethics under subsection (a) of this section and the respondent shall have the right to be represented by legal counsel, the right to compel attendance of witnesses and the production of books, documents, records and papers and to examine and cross-examine witnesses. Not later than ten days prior to the commencement of any hearing conducted pursuant to this subsection, the Office of State Ethics shall provide the respondent with a list of its intended witnesses. The judge trial referee shall, while engaged in the discharge of the duties as provided in this subsection, have the same authority as is provided in section 51-35 over witnesses who refuse to obey a subpoena or to testify with respect to any matter upon which such witness may be lawfully interrogated, and may commit any such witness for contempt for a period no longer than thirty days. The Office of State Ethics shall make a record of all proceedings pursuant to this subsection. The board shall find no person in violation of any

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- 877 provision of this part except upon the concurring vote of [two-thirds] 878 three of its members present and voting. Not later than fifteen days 879 after the public hearing conducted in accordance with this subsection, 880 the board shall publish its finding and a memorandum of the reasons 881 therefor. Such finding and memorandum shall be deemed to be the 882 final decision of the board on the matter for the purposes of chapter 54. 883 The respondent, if aggrieved by the finding and memorandum, may 884 appeal therefrom to the Superior Court in accordance with the 885 provisions of section 4-183.
 - (c) If any complaint brought under the provisions of this part is made with the knowledge that it is made without foundation in fact, the respondent shall have a cause of action against the complainant for double the amount of damage caused thereby and if the respondent prevails in such action, the respondent may be awarded by the court the costs of such action together with reasonable attorneys' fees.]
 - [(d)] (c) No complaint may be made under this section except within five years next after the violation alleged in the complaint has been committed.
 - [(e)] (d) No person shall take or threaten to take official action against an individual for such individual's disclosure of information to the board or the general counsel, ethics enforcement officer or staff of the Office of State Ethics under the provisions of this part. After receipt of information from an individual under the provisions of this part, the Office of State Ethics shall not disclose the identity of such individual without such person's consent unless the Office of State Ethics determines that such disclosure is unavoidable during the course of an investigation.
- 904 Sec. 12. Subsection (b) of section 1-96 of the general statutes is 905 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from 906 passage):
- 907 (b) Each individual communicator lobbyist registrant and each

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business organization communicator lobbyist registrant shall file with the Office of State Ethics between the first and tenth day of January a report or reports, signed under penalty of false statement, reporting the amounts of compensation and reimbursement received from each of his clients during the previous year. In addition, each individual communicator lobbyist registrant and each business organization communicator lobbyist registrant shall: (1) Report the fundamental terms of contracts, agreements or promises to pay or receive compensation or reimbursement or to make expenditures in furtherance of lobbying, including the categories of work to be performed and the dollar value or compensation rate of the contract, at the time of registration; (2) report, in accordance with the schedule set forth in subsection (a) of this section, any amendments to these fundamental terms, including any agreements to subcontract lobbying work; and (3) report, in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, any expenditures for the benefit of a public official or state employee in the legislative or executive branch or a member of the staff or immediate family of such official which are unreimbursed and required to be itemized. Such report shall include any donations or payments that a registrant knew or should have known were paid to a business associated with a public official in the legislative or executive branch or that employs a public official in the legislative or executive branch, or a member of the staff or immediate family of such public official. Such report shall not include the disclosure of food and beverage provided by a communicator lobbyist registrant to a public official in the legislative or executive branch or a member of his staff or immediate family at a major life event, as defined by the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board, of the registrant. All such information shall be reported under penalty of false statement.

- 937 Sec. 13. Subsection (a) of section 1-96a of the general statutes is 938 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from 939 passage):
- 940 (a) Each registrant shall obtain and preserve all accounts, bills,

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941 receipts and other documents necessary to substantiate the financial 942 reports required by section 1-96 for a period of [three] five years from 943 the date of the filing of the report referring to such financial matters, 944 provided this section shall apply to each expenditure for the benefit of 945 a public official of ten dollars or more and all other expenditures of 946 fifty dollars or more.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following		
sections:		
Section 1	from passage	1-79(f)
Sec. 2	from passage	1-81(a)
Sec. 3	from passage	1-82
Sec. 4	from passage	1-83(b) and (c)
Sec. 5	from passage	1-84
Sec. 6	from passage	1-84b(f)
Sec. 7	from passage	1-85
Sec. 8	from passage	1-86(a)
Sec. 9	from passage	1-91
Sec. 10	from passage	1-92(e)
Sec. 11	from passage	1-93
Sec. 12	from passage	1-96(b)
Sec. 13	from passage	1-96a(a)

Statement of Purpose:

To make certain substantive changes and technical corrections to the state code of ethics.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]